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Timberlane Goes on National Search for Superintendent

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - The Timberlane/Hampstead School Administrative Unit (SAU) 55 School District, the third largest in the state, will embark on a national search to find a replacement for Superintendent Richard LaSalle. LaSalle recently announced that he is leaving at the conclusion of this school year to take a position with the South Eastern Regional Education Service Center (SERESC), a Bedford-based nonprofit providing educational consulting and professional development services.

Timberlane encompasses the towns of Sandown, Danville, Plaistow and Atkinson.

The SAU 55 Board met Monday night in Plaistow to determine the direction the

superintendent selection process would take. Chairman Greg Hoppa of Hampstead opened the floor to a Hampstead resident, Jorge Mesa-Tejada, for comments before moving into the board's discussion on the selection process.

Mesa-Tejada said of the agenda, "Having a non-public session listed sounds to me as if there will be a coronation tonight." He went on to express concern if that were the case, adding, "The superintendent's selection must be open and transparent, whereby candidates are vetted in public session by stakeholders and the finalist chosen by open vote."

He went on to challenge the SAU Board to consider all the elements of the selection process, including and most especially the contract terms.

"Now is the time to

bring those contracts up to date and make them more taxpayer friendly," he said. "A review of the contract terms is essential because the current contract terms are harmful to taxpayers."

He then suggested where and how the contract benefits package should be reduced and union connections severed. The board members were receptive to his comments and suggestions, and Hoppa said they would be taken under advisement.

The SAU Board members, made up of Hampstead and Timberlane School District board members, then heard from Hoppa, who outlined what he perceived to be their options regarding the selection process. He said the board had three options: a national search conducted by NESDEC

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Police Building Committee Plans Same Proposal for 2013

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Swallowing their disappointment, the members of the Ad Hoc Police Building Committee rolled up their collective sleeves and looked to the future, determined to continue the effort to get a new police station, and to place the same design and location as a bond on the March 2013 ballot.

By the end of their Wednesday, April 4, meeting, the committee members had decided to try and find a more effective method of public outreach and education. They maintain that the final design and size for the building were correct and the loca-

tion chosen was the right location, despite the voters' turning down the bond proposal to build the station.

Steve Londrigan was chosen to chair the committee. Former chairman Jim Stewart nominated Londrigan and declined to be vice chairman.

The committee decided to wait to appoint a vice chairman until the next meeting, tentatively set for Wednesday, May 2, at 7 p.m. at the fire station, when it hopes new members will be present. The meeting will come after the Board of Selectmen's public forum on the police station, set for Monday, April 30, at 7 p.m., with the location to be announced.

Stewart had a list of rea-

sons voters had given him as to why they had voted against the police station. Other members added a few more. Some voters said the town already has the money to pay for the station, rather than bond it, and others said the School District surplus could be used to build the station, although that would not be possible. Others said they always vote no on money articles.

Another reason cited was the belief that Hampstead does not have sufficient crime to merit the station.

Voter apathy was also discussed, along with having police officers be more involved in the community so residents are aware of

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EGG HUNTERS Keara Bruno, Kaylee Lopusiewicz and Keara Lopusiewicz go through the eggs they collected at the annual Chester Public Library's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7. Along with the egg hunt, children could visit with the Easter Bunny, make holiday crafts and enjoy storytelling.

Photo by Chris Paul

Budget Committee and Selectmen Don't Agree on Town Budget

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - The budget committee and board of selectmen have not come to an agreement on the operating budget that will be brought to Town Meeting. After the committee's Monday, April 9, public hearing, the two groups remain

about \$94,000 apart.

The budget is the responsibility of the committee, and the number that will be going to voters is theirs. It totals \$3,580,921, and represents a 3.5 percent increase to spending before debt service.

That debt service has been key this year in leading the committee to a number

they consider palatable to taxpayers. The town retired \$300,000 of loan principle this year and while the committee was hoping to see a commensurately reduced budget because of it, the board of selectmen said it had necessary projects to get done and recommended \$3,675,043. That's a num-

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Four Chester Girl Scouts Achieve Silver Award

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - Four Girl Scouts of Chester's Troop 11035 recently took on four projects that bettered their community, and for their efforts were honored with Silver Awards, one of the highest achievements in scouting.

Edith Allard, Emma Goudreault, Mary Decker and Diana Calvetti all saw a need in their communities, needs that were close to their hearts, and put in hours of organizing and labor to see their projects go from an idea to fruition.

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award a scout can earn through the ninth grade. It can take more than a year to work through its requirements, culminating in a service project that must provide a new and needed service to the scout's community. The overarching aim of the Silver Award, and of Girl Scouts, is to help the girls grow, improving not only their own lives but also the lives of others.

Troop leader Patricia Decker said the first four requirements of the Girl Scout Silver Award help girls build skills, explore careers, gain leadership skills, and

make a commitment to self-improvement. In addition, the Silver Award project requires 40 to 50 hours of work, from coordinating and organizing to physical labor. Each Girl Scout must identify an issue that she cares about, conceive of a project based on that issue, plan how to complete the project, and make it a reality by coordinating and accomplishing the project.

Allard's project, "Stories for the Sick," will go a long way to easing the stress of children hospitalized with long-term illness. Allard said she knew she wanted her project to center on kids, and was struck by children with serious diseases who are often forced to be away from their homes.

"Sometimes the nurses helping to care for them have busy days, and though they try to give the kids as much attention as possible, I figured it would be good to give a hospital something that could keep younger kids engaged by themselves," said Allard.

To that end she researched children's books and obtained permission from authors to record their stories. She enlisted her friends' help to read the books and created CDs.



Chester Girl Scout Troop 11035 leader Pat Decker, left; troop members Diana Calvetti, Mary Decker, Edith Allard, and Emma Goudreault, who recently received their Silver Awards; and past troop leader Nancy Jolin are pictured. *Courtesy photo*

Those CDs went into canvas bags that contained a CD player along with the printed book, and she donated them to Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD).

"Audio books and CD players seemed like the answer, and Children's Hospital at Dartmouth seemed like the place. It felt good gathering some friends to record stories and finally giving them to the people at CHaD," Allard said.

Goudreault focused her project on the restoration and preservation of her town's history and the farm "that once defined it." She restored a wagon at Spring Hill Farm that will be used

to bring back a once annual tradition, hay rides.

Goodreault sees the value in the farm, bequeathed to the people of Chester by Muriel Church, and wanted to help bring the land back to some of its former importance to the town. She approached the farm's trustees with hopes to work with the animals, but when she learned of the wagon need, she got to work. She organized family and fellow scouts to sand and paint the wagon, and said Chester Hardware offered a discount on supplies.

"By recreating the wagon, I feel like my Silver Award Project is a tribute to

Muriel Church and the farm that shaped my town's beautiful history," said Goodreault.

Decker's project will be a lifeline to young people questioning their sexual orientation but struggling to find resources to help them through what can be a difficult time. Decker has been interested in gay rights since the seventh grade, and after realizing how ignorant people can be of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community, she set about finding and sharing LGBT stories.

By interviewing fellow high school students, Decker designed and created a booklet based on the experience of teenagers who have "come out." Decker's project is named "Closets are for Clothes," and the booklets are now available at select guidance offices in New Hampshire.

"I realized that, since today's society is more accepting, kids have been coming out earlier in their lives, but they had no resources in their elementary or middle schools. I decided to remedy that by creating a booklet that contained interviews of LGBT youth, to be

distributed to the local middle schools' guidance departments as a resource for counselors to use. I have since gotten some high schools on board, as their guidance believed the resource to be needed in that level of schooling as well," Decker said.

Calvetti's project focused on helping babies born to mothers in tough financial situations. While shopping for a new baby cousin, Calvetti realized that such an activity might be a luxury to some young mothers, and wanted to ease that burden. She arranged for donations of fleece fabric, and along with fellow Chester scouts, created nearly 100 blankets for newborns. Along with that work, she collected baby supplies and children's books and donated them to The Upper Room in Derry, a non-profit family resource center.

Calvetti's project, "The Baby Blanket Project," illustrates her belief that despite the family situation, every baby deserves the chance for a good start.

"As a baby, I was never seen without my blanket, so I decided that every baby should have a baby blanket, something that might not be high on a mother's list if they were in a tough financial situation," said Calvetti.

The troop recently celebrated the girls' accomplishment in a pinning ceremony with families, their current troop leader, Patricia Decker, and their past troop leader, Nancy Pilotte Jolin.

Troop 11035's Silver Award projects were all funded through grants from "Challenge and Change: Challenge Yourself, Change the World," a leadership development program from Girl Scouts of the USA.

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Hall Walks Off Cable Committee, Its Future Questioned

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – Longtime Public Access Cable Television (PACT) committee volunteer Hilary Hall resigned last week during a meeting between fellow committee volunteers Bob Grimm and Lenny Stein and the board of selectmen.

The PACT committee met with the board on Thursday, April 5, to discuss unpaid bills that Grimm has sent the town for his work on the cable

station, putting out channels 20, 21 and 22.

The issue had come up at the board's previous meeting, as reported by the Tri-Town Times, during a discussion on a budget line item that the selectmen didn't think belonged in the PACT budget. It was a line item to pay an employee to help with the station, something Grimm has been doing for several months. While the selectmen balked at the price tag of that position, Grimm said that whatever the hourly rate was, the town needed to begin

looking at a paid position to keep the station on the air, something many surrounding towns have already done.

After Thursday's meeting, the continued airing of Chester's cable channels seemed to be in jeopardy.

Hall questioned the selectmen on the unpaid bill in light of a previous meeting where the need for a paid position was discussed and, she said, agreed to by the board.

Selectman Mike Weider had a different recollection of the meeting and empha-

sized that the board was surprised to see a bill from Grimm. Weider said the town couldn't have an independent worker without a legitimate business because the town would need to assume workers' compensation liability.

Stein stepped into the conversation not to argue for the committee, but to question how someone could charge for a position traditionally done by volunteers. Stein has been volunteering for cable for years and balked at the idea that someone was charging for that work.

While Grimm and Hall said they had discussed the issue at a meeting to which they tried to invite Stein, he stated firmly that he had nothing to do with the decision, should have been notified of the meeting, and his name should not be attributed to decisions on which he didn't have a say.

Hall and Grimm said

they had tried to get in touch with Stein by email.

At that point, Hall then said Stein could be the whole committee from now on because she was resigning, effective immediately. She left the meeting.

What followed was a discussion between Grimm and Stein on how PACT should be run, with Stein arguing that it may be unwise to continue with the station at all, because participation and interest seemed so low.

Grimm and Hall have been working to bring in volunteers and encourage participation in the cable station but haven't seen success.

Stein wanted to know who was watching the channels and whether it was worth spending more money on the station's operation. "I can't see spending any more money on the station if there's no interest in it," said Stein. "When we

started the station, we did it on a shoestring budget."

This year, \$7,781 is allocated in the PACT budget.

The money to run the station comes from cable franchise fees and is earmarked for cable operations only, according to Grimm.

Grimm said no new volunteers were stepping forward and he didn't have much time to run the station. He again argued for a paid position and money for the station, saying that the only way to get volunteers was to have a presence.

The station was run by years by stalwart volunteers Dick and Marge Godfrey, but that fell away after Dick died in 2010.

At the end of the discussion, selectman chair Steph Landau thanked Hall for her volunteer work, saying he was sorry to see her leave. He added that he'd like to see Stein and Grimm get something going on the station in the future.

Three-Car Crash in Chester

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – Police are currently investigating a three-car accident that occurred on April 4 on North Pond Road. The driver who caused the accident, according to police, was operating with a suspended license for being an habitual offender and was wanted for failing to appear in Rockingham County Superior

Court.

The accident occurred around 9:25 a.m. near 68 North Pond Road. There was a parked vehicle off the southbound lane, and a driver traveling south merged past the center line to avoid colliding with it. At the same time John Murphy, 63, most recently of 9 Beatrice St. in Danville, failed to yield.

The south-traveling vehicle then collided with the parked car and was struck

by Murphy's Chrysler sedan, which then continued to travel down the road until stopping in a ditch.

According to police chief Bill Burke, Murphy may have experienced a medical event (potentially a black out) coinciding with the accident.

Murphy suffered only a minor injury but was transported to Parkland Medical Center in Derry, where he was admitted.



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Editorial

A Snapshot, Not the Album

When the state Commissioner of Education calls mandated test results flawed, it's time to stop the charade.

Hopefully that will be done when New Hampshire switches off in a couple of years from the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) to a different mode of testing, but more important would be federal acknowledgement that No Child Left Behind makes no sense.

And even more important would be the recognition that no one thing can tell us whether a school or a school district is doing its job well. A test like the NECAP, which does not chart student progress but compares this year's groups of students to those of previous years, is a snapshot – and a blurry one at best. We'd prefer to see the entire album.

For example, Sandown North School is a national Blue Ribbon School, making it one of the top schools in the country. Yet it failed to achieve "annual yearly progress" in reading. At North, 94 percent of students tested proficient or better in reading, three points above the goal. All groups but special education met that goal.

That's a pattern at most of our schools.

The tests don't track students from year to year, the only kind of test that makes sense in assessing how students are learning and how subjects are being taught.

In the best of all worlds, every child would be proficient in every skill. We know, both emotionally and intellectually, that such a thing is not possible. Realistic goals – not everyone at equal, 100 percent proficiency – are needed. That's not what we have.

But based on federal law, each year the standard moves up. And while we're all for boosting achievement, we want that boost in each student's knowledge and understanding, not in that student's ability to answer practiced test questions. Knowing where a student tested last year, and seeing where he or she tested this year, can tell us something. Knowing where fifth graders tested last year, and comparing fifth graders this year, is playing with numbers.

In the same vein, we want teachers instructing students in their subjects, not teaching to test questions. But with the label of School or District In Need of Improvement hanging over their heads, the emphasis is all too likely on the latter.

Rather than focusing on the label, we urge parents to get to know their schools, their children's teachers, and their schoolwork. Visiting the classroom and reviewing homework are key.

And most importantly, if your child is learning, don't let a meaningless label throw you or your school district off course.

Letters

Thanks Fire Department

To the editor:

To the Board of Selectmen:

I am writing to you to extend our sincere gratitude to the Chester Fire Department, its members and to relate to you a recent experience my wife and I had with them.

My wife and I moved to Chester in 1979, and this was our first encounter with the fire department at our home. On Dec. 31, 2011, my wife and I were away from our home having dinner when we were notified by Deputy Chief Michael Willinsky of a fire at our home on Candia Road. He indicated that our shed and pool area had experienced a significant fire and that we should return home to view the

damage. He reassured us that our house and dog were fine but the shed had been heavily involved in fire prior to being discovered and had been lost.

When we arrived shortly thereafter from Derry, we found several fire trucks in the street in front of our home and the remains of our storage shed and damaged pool. Chief Antoine assisted us in surveying the damage and he began his fire investigation.

It was easy to see that they did an outstanding job in containing the fire and minimizing the damage. Were it not for their training and leadership, we might have lost so much more. The men and women of the fire department were compassionate and continued to assist us in the many

weeks and months after the fire as we cleared the damage and prepared to rebuild.

We have appreciated working with Fire Chief Antoine and Deputy Chief Willinsky in the aftermath of this incident. They have proven to be very helpful and accommodating in our goal to rebuild and replace our lost items.

We are lucky to have such professional and well-trained fire personnel to protect our community. Many thanks to them and you for your continued support of the men and women of the Chester Fire Department. It is times like these that make us proud to live in the small town of Chester – where people helping people is just a way of life.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Manuel
Chester

Tri-Town Times welcomes letters on topics of local interest, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail letters to tri-towntimes@nutpub.net. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. Letters are limited to 500 words. The Tri-Town Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed.

Hampstead Woman Burned in Fremont Fire Friday Night

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – A fast moving two-alarm fire that destroyed a mobile home located at 217 Main St. in Fremont Friday just after 7:30 p.m. injured a Hampstead woman who was visiting at the time. The home's owner was not present.

Fire officials, State Fire

Marshal J. William Degnan and Fremont Fire Chief Richard Butler said their investigation revealed the fire was caused by a candle and an open flame.

Karen Heddemon, 67, 245 Kent Farm Road, Hampstead, was burned while trying to extinguish the fire.

She told officials at the scene the fire started with a

candle. Heddemon is employed by Chester College of New England in the Accounting Department.

She was treated at the scene for her injuries and subsequently transported first to Exeter Hospital and then to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, where she was being treated for her burns.

Police

continued from page 1
their contributions.

There was some discussion of whether the voters would approve paying for the station in one or two years, or by starting a five-year Capital Reserve Plan. The majority of the committee did not think those methods would work, and supported continuing to present a bond.

The desire of some for a Safety Complex with the fire department also arose.

A discussion ensued, with members reminded that it took more than a few years to approve building the existing fire station, and then 10 years to get Hampstead voters to approve the new library.

While this may be the Hampstead way, the committee agreed to stick to the design and location chosen. The committee had previously investigated the idea of a Safety Complex and came up with a side-by-side cost analysis. At that time, members found a safety

complex would be more expensive, difficult to accomplish because the new building couldn't be attached to the current fire station and remain level, and additional property would have to be purchased to accommodate the chosen design, which would increase the cost.

Hampstead Fire Capt. Chris Dane, who is a surveyor and a member of the Police Building Committee, said he thought the stand-alone police station was the way to go.



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Pinkerton Fails to Achieve 'Adequate Progress' in State Tests

KAITLYN G. WOODS
Tri-Town Times

The 2012 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports for New Hampshire schools and school districts show Pinkerton Academy did not achieve "adequate progress" in reading, language arts, and math.

Pinkerton is now in its first year as a School In Need of Improvement (SINI) for reading and year three as a School In Need of Improvement for math.

Nevertheless, Pinkerton's whole school index score in reading met the AYP standard. "We saw

pretty high scores in terms of the percentages for reading and language arts. We were happy with that," Dean of Students Chris Harper said. "But we didn't see enough growth in math. It's difficult to work to move everyone forward, but we are trying and will continue to try."

The Academy's whole school index score in reading was 94.3 - the target index score was 89. Pinkerton's economically disadvantaged subgroup also achieved AYP in reading with an index score of 91.7; however, the school's educational disability subgroup,

which earned an index score of 78.7, did not achieve AYP in reading.

If even one subgroup does not achieve AYP in a subject, the school as a whole does not achieve AYP.

In math, Pinkerton's whole school index score was 68.7 while the target index score was 72.

Index scores are based on students' scores on the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests, as well as schools' participation.

Students who achieve scores of proficient or proficient with distinction on the NECAPs earn 100 points

toward their school's AYP index score, and partial credit is awarded to students who don't achieve proficiency, according to Derry Cooperative School District Assistant Superintendent MaryAnn Connors-Krikorian.

Harper said the state's benchmarks are increasingly difficult to meet and the standard is being questioned at both the state and federal level.

Based on the state's 2012 AYP reports, over 70 percent of schools and 65 percent of school districts in New Hampshire failed to make AYP in 2012.

The state as a whole failed to achieve AYP in Reading or Math.

"If almost all schools are in need of improvement, what is that telling us?" Harper asked.

"We need an assessment that gives good feedback so weaknesses can be addressed," he said.

Harper noted the AYP report is just one piece of data the school uses to assess students.

"We can grab data from a test and look at it, but a lot of the data is not very prescriptive," he said.

Because the NECAP test at the high school level

is administered only to juniors, the assessment covers a vast amount of information - everything they have learned since seventh grade. And the test can cover only a limited amount of material.

"We get some broad-brush strokes, but it's hard to see specific problems," Harper said, emphasizing the importance of other assessments, such as the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) exams.

Harper said Pinkerton will "certainly continue working as a school" to achieve AYP in Math.

Former Sandown Woman Loses Plea on Animal Cruelty Indictments

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - Though Jamie Labbe, formerly of 223 North Road, filed motions to dismiss four indictments against her for various acts of attempted animal cruelty, the motions were denied last month.

Labbe, 34, now of 182 Plaistow Road in Plaistow, is facing four indictments for attempted cruelty to animals and one for criminal mischief for actions she allegedly took between Feb-

ruary and April of last year. According to Rockingham Superior Court documents filed in February of this year, Labbe induced two German Shepherds, owned by her fiancé, Kurt Krohn, to ingest a metal cigarette lighter, metal shower head, a four inch metal bolt and a metal conduit clamp.

One dog, Pebbles, had to be euthanized following the forced feeding. The other, Magic, survived after surgery.

On March 15 of this year, Labbe filed a motion to

dismiss the indictments. Her attorney, Thomas Gleason, states in court documents that the indictments do not meet the scope of the law in that they "fail to allege the defendant's purpose in committing the acts alleged. Specifically, the indictments fail to allege whether it was the defendant's purpose to beat, cruelly whip, torture or mutilate any animal or cause any

animal to be so treated..."

The motion goes on to state "Specifically, the act of placing an object "in proximity to the mouth" of an animal cannot reasonably be said to constitute a substantial step that is strongly corroborative of the defendant's purpose, which is otherwise stated and unknown."

Six indictments filed in June of 2011 for the same case were dismissed after

Labbe filed a motion to suppress statements she made to police after her arrest.

The newest round of indictments changes wording to state that the objects were "placed in proximity to" or "in the mouth" of the dogs, rather than actively forced down their throats.

Labbe has pleaded not guilty to both the original and new charges.

The motion to dismiss the indictments was denied

by Judge Marguerite Wagingling.

Court documents also reveal that Sandown Police received information from a witness that Labbe had also tried to poison one or both of the dogs with antifreeze.

Each pending count is a Class B felony punishable by three and a half to seven years.

A jury trial is set for June 6.

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Administrators Call State School Test Results Misleading

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - While Sandown Central School made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) according to preliminary results released last week by the New Hampshire Department of Education (DOE), Sandown North School missed its goal in reading.

But just saying that North, a national Blue Ribbon School, missed the goal in reading is misleading.

AYP is based on student performance on the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests, combined with a federal mandate that by 2013-2014, all students are proficient in tested subject areas. Since the program's inception during the 2005-06 school year, the parameters for success have been steadily increasing in hopes that 100 percent of students in New Hampshire would be proficient in reading and mathematics by the No Child Left Behind deadline of 2013-14. As a signpost on the path to meeting that requirement, this year NECAP wanted 91 percent proficiency on reading and

88 percent in math.

At North School, 94 percent of the students are deemed proficient in reading, three points above the requirement.

The issue comes when students are broken out into subgroups. At North, all subgroups but the one for special education students met the 91 percent goal. Subgroups include ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational disability, and non or limited English proficiency. North's special education subgroup reached 82 percent. Thus, the performance of what could be one or two students who may have just had a bad testing day has the state saying that North isn't meeting progress goals.

NECAP is administered to only the third grade at North and to the fourth and fifth grades at Central. That means 69 students were tested at North and 82 at Central, so poor performance by a small number of students can affect the whole school.

For its part, Central had 90 percent of its special education students deemed proficient, but was allowed to make AYP because of

loopholes built into the system.

Kelli Killen, elementary curriculum director for the Timberlane Regional School District, of which Sandown is a part, said North as a whole was doing very well and that 82 percent proficiency was great performance for the special education subgroup, something that should be celebrated. She said that one needed to be careful when interpreting NECAP results because they can sometimes be nothing more than a numbers game.

"It's a very high percentage for special education students taking a state test," said Killen. "We just didn't hit that arbitrary target the law says we have to hit."

While the majority of the state has missed AYP goals in both disciplines for years, Sandown schools have generally performed very well on the NECAP tests, and only once before has either school missed AYP.

North missed AYP in reading in 2008 for the same reason it missed it this year. To show the progress the school has actually been making, 70 percent of special education students were

deemed proficient at that time, just four years ago.

So much of the state is failing to meet AYP that when releasing the results this year, state commissioner of education Virginia Barry conceded that the NECAP tests are flawed, something educators and administrators have been saying for years.

"Over 70 percent of schools and 65 percent of districts failed to make AYP in 2012," Barry said. "This is ample evidence that the accountability system is broken, not that the vast majority of schools in New Hampshire are failing. In New Hampshire we need an accountability system that

rewards the great schools and accurately identifies those schools and districts that need our support."

This year Sandown North was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. North is one of 304 schools across the country to be awarded that title, and is the only school in the state to receive the distinction this year, a label that says the school is one of the best in the country.

The state is in the process of phasing out NECAP in favor of a growth model, which administrators herald as a more accurate way to chart individual student and school

progress. Administrators have referred to NECAP as a system that relies too heavily on penalizing, especially when taking into account the fact that by 2013-2014, 100 percent of schools won't make AYP.

Killen said NECAP has been beneficial from a broad district curriculum perspective, but is less useful when trying to focus in on particular students because it doesn't track kids from year to year, and test results aren't timely.

More information on the tests, results and how to interpret those results is available at www.education.nh.gov.

Financial Donation Possible for Historic Bell's Yoke

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - The restoration of the 1,200-pound Paul Revere Jr., bell hanging in the Old Meeting House steeple is moving closer to resolution, as a local bank considers providing some financial assistance.

The Hampstead Historic District Heritage Committee met last week, and member Rob Morris said Dave Dupouy, who is creating a new yoke for the bell from a

slab of white oak, has said it is possible it could be ready for the July 4th bell ringing. The present yoke is twisted and unsafe, and the bell must be detached and the new yoke fitted with new hardware before the bell can be put back in place.

Joe McSwain of Mid-Maine Restoration will be in Hampstead during the spring or early summer to replace the steeple roof and install a new balustrade, and Morris is hoping to coordinate McSwain's work

on the steeple with the bell's removal from the current yoke and re-attachment to the new one.

New hardware may be required, and member Chip Hastings said he would make inquiries at a blacksmith convention he plans to attend.

Marion Donahue of Pentucket Bank told the members it is possible the bank may be willing to assist financially with getting the bell ready to ring for July 4th. No specifics were discussed.

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Hunters Hideaway in Chester Expands to Sale of Guns

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – The planning board quickly approved the request of the business Hunters Hideaway to expand its offerings from archery equipment to firearms.

The business is operated at 239 Chester St., and

while the outside of the site isn't changing to accommodate the new products, the owners were required to go before the planning board to obtain a Federal Firearms License (FFL).

The board approved the request with two conditions, that no testing or discharge of firearms take place on site and that open

hours didn't change.

Keith Phelps, business owner, said that while the new offering might increase business slightly, Hunters Hideaway is not a full-time operation. He said his goal is to create a one-stop shop for customers.

Phelps assured the board and abutters that care has been taken to properly

secure guns and ammunition and the building itself, so much so that the Bureau of Alcohol and Firearms' requirements for an FFL were exceeded.

The new business located within Hunters Hideaway is called MCALIS Arms.

In other planning board news:

In response to concerns

from the conservation commission, the board discussed how to ensure that subdivisions required to establish conservation easements on portions of the development do so. Discussion noted that no strict process is in place to make sure that step is undertaken, but that the onus should be on the developer to under-

take the action and show proof, and the planning board should not be chasing anyone around to make sure the effort is undertaken.

The board may create a regulation amendment to outline the proper process later in the year, but showing proof of the easement will be required as a condition of approval for the time being.

Chester Remains School in Need of Improvement Based on 'Flawed' Tests

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – According to results from the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests taken in October, Chester Academy made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) in reading this year, but failed to do so in math.

Though Chester Academy remains a School In Need of Improvement (SINI) because of NECAP scores, in releasing this year's AYP reports, state Department of Education commissioner Virginia Barry conceded that the tests, and therefore the des-

ignations, were flawed.

"Over 70 percent of schools and 65 percent of districts failed to make AYP in 2012. This is ample evidence that the accountability system is broken, not that the vast majority of schools in New Hampshire are failing," stated Barry. "In New Hampshire, we need an accountability system that rewards the great schools and accurately identifies those schools and districts that need our support."

To make AYP, a school or district must meet performance targets established for students in reading and mathematics, as well as meet state targets for stu-

dent participation, attendance, and graduation. Student performance in the school as a whole is measured, as well as the performance of specific subgroups of students, which are broken down by ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational disability, and non or limited English proficiency.

A school or district is labeled In Need of Improvement if it fails to make AYP in a subject area for two consecutive years. To remove the In Need of Improvement designation, a school or district must make AYP for two consecutive years.

Chester has struggled

with the tests since their inception, when New Hampshire began abiding by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. School board members have said they regularly must defend Chester Academy's quality in light of the tests, something that frustrated them because of long held concerns that the NECAP is unable to adequately assess student achievement.

Last year Chester Academy failed to make AYP in both reading and math, but

this year's batch of students performed better on the reading test than last year's. Chester routinely outperforms its peers across the state on the tests.

According to the state, 121 (26 percent) schools made AYP in all areas measured, and 332 (71 percent) schools did not make AYP in one or more areas. The remaining 12 (3 percent) schools are subject to review until AYP can be calculated. In addition, 27 (33 percent) high schools

missed the graduation rate target, and one elementary school missed its attendance rate in the state. Based on the 2012 AYP results, 30 schools are identified as new SINIs, increasing the total number of schools identified for improvement to 330 (71 percent).

AYP reports were issued on April 3.

The state plans to move to different tests in the coming years.

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Hampstead Schools Among Many Failing to Make 'Adequate Yearly Progress'

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Hampstead Schools as a total package were among the 70 percent of schools in the state failing to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

AYP is based on a school's demonstrating improvement by every student, and if one small subgroup fails to make that improvement, the entire school is considered in need of improvement, something most administrators think is unfair and not representative of their school's actual overall progress.

Both Hampstead Central and Hampstead Middle schools, with the exception of the Educational Disability subgroup, made AYP.

State Department of Education Commissioner Virginia Barry announced the release of 2012 AYP

reports for New Hampshire schools and school districts last week.

"Over 70 percent of schools and 65 percent of districts failed to make AYP in 2012," she said. "This is ample evidence that the accountability system is broken, not that the vast majority of schools in New Hampshire are failing. In New Hampshire, we need an accountability system that rewards the great schools and accurately identifies those schools and districts that need our support."

The 2012 AYP Reports are based on the October 2011 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) test results for grades three through eight and grade 11, together with the 2010-2011 New Hampshire Alternate Learning Progressions Assessment (NH-ALPs) results for grades two through seven and 10, and the Class of

2011 graduation rate. AYP is calculated through an index system, with schools and districts receiving full credit for each student who scores at proficient or better and partial credit for student scores below proficient.

To make AYP, a school or district must meet performance targets established for students in reading and mathematics, as well as meet state targets for student NECAP participation, attendance, and high school graduation. Student performance is summarized for the whole school and subgroups of students, including by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational disability, and non- or limited- English proficient. To make AYP, a school or district must meet the targets in every category (NECAP participation, performance, and graduation/attendance) for every subgroup. To comply with the requirements of the federal No Child Left

Behind act, all students within a school and district must demonstrate proficiency by 2013-2014.

One hundred and twenty-one (26 percent) schools made AYP in all areas measured and 332 (71 percent) schools did not make AYP in one or more areas. The remaining 12 (3 percent) schools are subject to review until AYP can be calculated. In addition, 27 (33 percent) high schools missed the graduation rate target, and one elementary school missed for its attendance rate.

Hampstead Assistant Superintendent Winfried Feneberg said, "We are pleased that the results of the Adequate Yearly Progress shows consistently high results for both Hampstead Central and Hamp-

stead Middle School. Both schools significantly exceed the established performance targets in reading and mathematics.

"Whole school results for Hampstead Central indicate that 95.3 percent of students perform at or above proficiency in reading, while 94.2 percent are proficient or proficient with distinction in mathematics," he said. "Whole school results at Hampstead Middle School show 95.8 percent of students to be proficient or proficient with distinction in reading, with 93 percent of middle school students meeting or exceeding proficiency levels in Mathematics."

Schools not making AYP for two consecutive years in the same content (i.e. reading or math) area are design-

nated a School in Need of Improvement (SINI). Hampstead schools are in this category, having landed there after last year's results. Both schools have submitted and had accepted detailed plans to address their situation.

Based on the 2012 AYP results, 30 more schools are identified as new SINIs, increasing the total number of schools identified for improvement to 330 (71 percent). Schools not making AYP have 30 days to file an appeal with the State Department of Education.

Feneberg said, "At HCS, all identified subgroups as well as the whole school group were able to meet the AYP requirement. However, the educational disability subgroup did not meet the AYP target index in reading and mathematics, even though our students far exceeded the state average in both areas. At HMS, all subgroups and the whole school group met AYP requirements as in past years. While the educational disability subgroup did not reach the target in reading, we are very proud to report that the educational disability subgroup made AYP this year in the area of mathematics. Again, the educational disability subgroup at HMS exceeded the state averages by 12 percentage points in reading and as much as 15 percentage points in mathematics."

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Sandown Central Students Practice Off-Site Evacuation

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – Thursday, March 22, was an unusually quiet morning at Sandown Central School. After an announcement by Principal Doug Rolph, the students filed out of their classrooms, down the hall, outside and onto waiting buses. All that could be heard were the kids' sneakers and the rolling wheels of carts some of their teachers were bringing along behind them.

The activity was part of the school's annual off-site evacuation drill, something they've been doing since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Schools are required to have protocol in place to get students off site in the event of an emergency, and Sandown Central takes it seriously.

The buses were idling outside the school, waiting to take the kids to Zorvino Vineyards, one of two evacuation spots. Zorvino's is south on Main Street, and the other, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, is north.

The students just had to follow directions, but teachers and staff had to make sure everyone was accounted for during each step of the move. They each had green and red placards to indicate whether all of their kids were accounted for once they were lined up in the function hall at Zorvino's. Before they left the school, Rolph visited each bus in turn to make sure no one was left behind.

Staff organized the drill, with Rolph leading the way. Next year, the school may

try to hold the drill later in the day, so that it could be finished with parents picking their kids up off-site, in an effort to go through the simulation from start to finish. That drill might involve the police as well.

"We're trying to be as prepared as possible," said Rolph.

A special "Crisis Team" is also in place to help everything run smoothly. Team members are the first ones to get off site and organize the students when they arrive. They're also the ones carrying the signs and having critical information for students, such as emergency contact information.

School nurse Mary Hatton has a suitcase full of first aid supplies as well as all of the specific medicine (Epi-pens, inhalers, medica-



Sandown Central School principal Douglas Rolph keeps an eye on students as they silently file off their buses during an off-site evacuation drill.

Photo by Matt Rittenhouse

tions) for the kids who need them.

While the buses were already on site for the drill Thursday, in the event of a real emergency, plans are in

place with the Timberlane Regional School District, of which Sandown is a part, to get transportation to the school quickly.

The drill went smoothly

and according to plan, in part because it's old hat to teachers and staff and the kids were briefed ahead of time.

Projects Under Discussion for Conservation Lands

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – After discussing the results of the recent election and expressing relief that the townspeople supported the transfer of funds from the Town Forest Fund to Forest Maintenance to maintain Town Forest trails and fields, Hampstead Conservation Commission Chairman Tim Lovell congratulated member Paul Carideo on his election to the Planning Board.

Lovell said two Scouts have discussed with him

proposed Eagle projects building bridges on conservation land. One bridge that needs to be replaced is in the Stage Road area, the other in the West Road area, where a stream is forded by using rocks and two-by-fours. He said he told the youths the bridges should be built to the same specifications as the bridge Billy Conti built. He added that another scout may be interested in working to restore some of the conservation land stone walls, particularly near the parking lot.

Lovell also noted that

two community service projects will be done, one that will spread gravel on the muddy and soft areas at the Stage Road entrance and down that trail, the other to remove small trees and growth at the lower edge of the West Road conservation field and distribute the debris into the forest.

The commission discussed whether to take an active part in Earth Day with the usual table and handing

out of trash bags for roadside cleanups. Member David Treat said he thought the commission should rethink this effort as there was almost no public participation.

"If we are to do this or something for Earth Day, we need to market it well in advance," he said.

Carideo suggested that a more useful way to take part in Earth Day would be for the commission to adopt a stretch of road and take care of it.

"This might just inspire other boards and groups to do this," he said. "It is something that needs to be done, and there are lots of roads not adopted, and it really doesn't take all that much time or effort."

The commission decided to contact Road Agent Jon Worthen, who is the town's Adopt a Road coordinator, and find out what roads could be adopted that are adjacent to or near con-

servation land.

The meeting ended with an admonition to be on the lookout for dirt bike activity on West Road conservation trails. Bikes, and all mechanized vehicles, are illegal in any conservation land the Forest Service is responsible for managing. Lovell said this means that some of the trails used by mountain bike groups can no longer be used by them.



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Artist in Residence Guides Students to Produce Graphic Comic Strips

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Hampstead Middle and Central School students are enjoying a unique experience with Marek Bennett as their



Domenic Eiro makes up his comic book cover during class last week.

Artist in Residence. The youngsters are learning how to produce graphic stories by creating characters and settings and fashioning them into comic strips.

According to Michael Terrile, Hampstead Central School art teacher, and Lori-Lyn Griffin, Hampstead Middle School fifth grade teacher, the students are enthusiastic about this activity, which is allowing them to explore their own creative skills.

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) funded the residency.

"Marek is a talented and disciplined artist who creates stories using the traditional comic format," Terrile said. "I'm psyched Marek is sharing his knowledge and passion for comics with our young artists. The fourth graders are thrilled to be working with him, too."

Griffin added, "The students are really enjoying this program, from the

process of planning to the final inked copy."

Bennett, originally from Henniker, travels the world working with kids to create comics. He is working with the fourth graders to create comic art in small comic books based on the biography unit the fourth grade students are studying. At HMS, he is working with the fifth graders on Greek myths, linked to the fifth grade study of Ancient Greece.

"Fourth grade students are enthusiastically creating comic story biographies of historically important and famous people," Terrile said. "Marek has been providing the students with the tools they need to create their own comic stories."

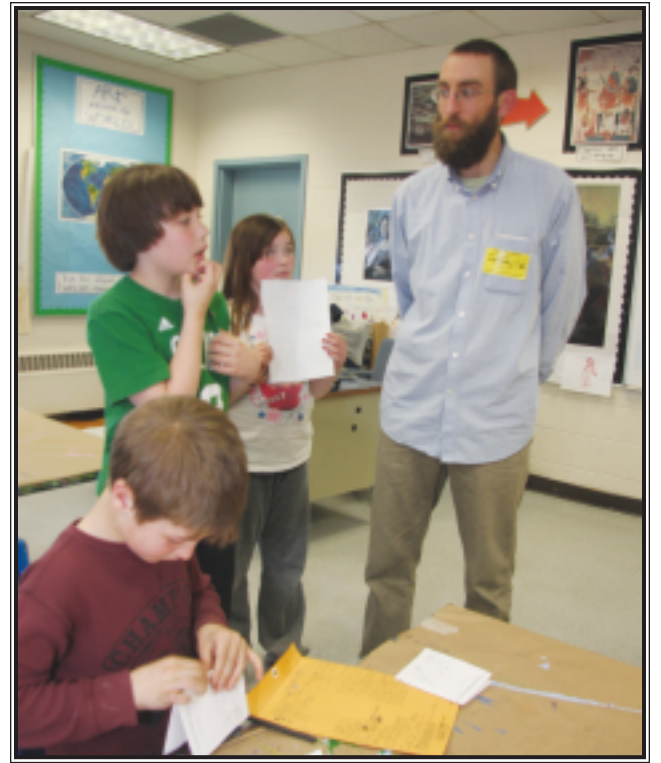
Meanwhile, the fifth graders wrote myths to tie together the Ancient Greece unit they are studying in Social Studies and a writing project for Language Arts, Griffin explained.

Bennett works with the students first on the creativ-

ity angle and on planning what they want to accomplish. He emphasizes that they should ask, "does this work and does it accomplish my goal," not "is this good." He then has them pencil in their ideas and work together getting feedback from each other, reminding them they should be drawing characters and situations with the reader in mind. Then comes putting together the pages for their comic book.

While the work takes place in class, Bennett also encourages the students to produce a six- to eight-page book at home, and to bring in the work for his help.

Bennett said that by giving students the tools and the freedom to take charge of their own project, they discover their talents and can better exercise their skills. He encourages the students to read and examine each other's efforts, saying this interaction improves each student's indi-



Hampstead students Ike Moseley, Blake Billingsley and Hannah Lajoie discuss their cartoons with Artist in Residence Marek Bennett.

Photos by Chris Paul

vidual effort.

"All our learning is experiential, participatory, and discovery based, so any art instruction comes directly out of our story-

telling," he said.

During his stay as Artist in Residence, Bennett said the students will learn that comic art is a graphic way in which to tell a story.

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New Curbside Trash Allowances Go into Effect July 2

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The Recycling and Solid Waste Committee has settled on new curbside trash allowances for Hampstead residents that will become effective July 2.

For a single family residence, two barrels or four

bags can be placed at curbside for pick-up. A single family dwelling with an in-law apartment may put out three barrels or six bags, while a duplex can have four barrels or eight bags.

Condominiums are allowed the same amount as a residence - two barrels or four bags, while two-unit apartment buildings can put

out three barrels or six bags. Mobile or manufactured homes on common property can put out two barrels or four bags.

The new amounts effectively cut in half what had been allowed under a regulation issued in October 2003. The previous amounts were found to be much too generous, espe-

cially when it was discovered that the average resident was putting out only a fraction of what was allowed.

The committee said very few residences were abusing the curbside trash pick-up allowance. Bestway Disposal will notify the Town of any infractions, and the

homeowner will be contacted once the new regulations kick in.

The point of the regulations is to encourage residents to increase what they recycle and decrease the amount of trash they dispose of. The trash is hauled to a landfill and a tipping fee is charged, while recy-

cling has no disposal cost.

The Town website at <http://www.hampsteadnh.us> lists the items that can be recycled, and brochures are available at Town Hall. Recycling bin stickers can be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office. There is no limit on the amount of material residents can recycle.



Busy Bunny

Shelby Peters colors an Easter egg holder during the Chester Public Library's annual Easter Egg Hunt and Party last Saturday. The egg holder was one of the crafts that participants had a chance to construct. The morning's activities began with an Easter egg hunt and a chance to visit with the Easter Bunny, along with listening to holiday stories.

Photo by Chris Paul


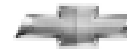


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Hampstead Selectmen OK Fund Use for Police Cruiser

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The Board of Selectmen approved allowing Police Chief Joe Beaudoin and the Hampstead Police Department to use a portion of the Department's Revolving Special Duty Fund to pay for a new police cruiser.

Beaudoin told the board Monday night that he wanted to use \$21,938 from the Police Department's Revolving Detail Fund to cover the cost of a new Expedition

cruiser. There is \$13,000 in the Police Department budget for the new cruiser, and Beaudoin recommended the board approve his use of the special fund money to complete the purchase. He said the department's 9-year-old Expedition was being traded as part of the purchase agreement.

The board, after a brief discussion, unanimously approved the chief's use of the Police Revolving Special Duty Fund to complete payment for the cruiser.

In other business:

- The board learned that Jeffrey Mackey, Trustee of the Cemetery, had tendered his resignation. At the last selectmen's meeting, Selectwoman Priscilla Lindquist brought up the issue of Mackey serving as a Cemetery Trustee while working as a town laborer in the cemeteries. She said that was illegal and read confirmation of that opinion from the New Hampshire Local Government Center.

Town Policy prohibits an elected official from

working on that board or department's area.

Selectman chair Sean Murphy indicated at the time that Mackey could resign as Trustee or not work for the town, but Lindquist said he could continue to work for the town so long as he didn't work in the cemeteries. Mackey chose to resign his position as Cemetery Trustee.

- The board did a little swapping of liaison assignments. Richard Hartung took over Library from Murphy, who also gave up

Recreation but took on the Police Department. Lindquist gave up the Police Department and took on Recreation. Other than that, the assignments remained the same.

- The board read a Library Week Proclamation for the week of April 8 through 14.

"I encourage all Hampstead residents to take advantage of the wonderful library resources available at the Hampstead Public Library," Murphy said.

- Boy Scout Troop 33

member Ryan Guest has completed his Eagle Scout project and will be honored at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on May 5 at 2 p.m. at the Hampstead Congregational Church.

Guest designed, mapped, cleared and created a new trail for the Hampstead Conservation Commission and has completed the final trail maintenance. The board was asked to provide a letter acknowledging his achievement and to present it to him during the Court of Honor.

Pinkerton Senior Wins Fashion Competition Scholarship

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Deanna Verringia, a Pinkerton Academy senior from Hampstead, was named the local first-place winner at the New England Institute of Art in the Art Institutes Passion for Fashion Competition, Fashion Marketing and Merchan-

dising and Retail Management category.

The Art Institutes Passion for Fashion Competition was created to encourage and reward young fashion talent. Verringia earned a \$3,000 tuition scholarship to study in a fashion program at the New England Institute of Art.

"For the scholarship, we had to complete a realistic

business plan complete with target market, promotions, financials and so forth," she said. "I made my business plan for a boutique named Retail Therapy located (hypothetically) in Portsmouth. I made business cards and a realistic cash flow statement for my business. It took a lot of time and effort, but I utilized my marketing knowl-

edge and common sense to put together a plan worth winning a scholarship."

In addition to her tuition scholarship, Verringia progressed to the national round of the Art Institutes Passion for Fashion Competition, where her entry was judged against other local winners from throughout North America.

"Fashion has been a part of my life and my career aspirations ever since I can remember," she said. "What I love most about fashion is that it is so abstract and involves so much creativity."

"I plan on using this scholarship to attend the New England Art Institute, get my degree in fashion merchandising and graduate at

the top of my class," Verringia said. "I will then go on to utilize my degree and industry experience to obtain a corporate level position at Victoria's Secret, where I am currently employed, either in the promotions or design department. I can't wait to get my career started and watch it unfold right before my eyes."

Timberlane

continued from page 1

(New England School Development Council) that would cost \$30,000 but did not have a timeframe; a regional search conducted by the New Hampshire School Boards Association that would cost \$10,000 and take between 12 to 16

weeks, and an in-house search that would cost \$1,800 to \$2,000 and would allow greater time flexibility and therefore more transition time.

Hoppa said any direction the board takes involves risks. He said the number of districts that have already entered the selection search process for

a new superintendent and the number still in the process has thinned the available pool of qualified candidates. In addition, the new superintendent would begin work by facing three contract negotiations and the budget building season.

The board members chose not to go into non-public session to discuss a possible in-house appointment, and the majority of the members expressed the desire for a national search, looking for the best and most qualified candidate.

Some board members wanted a new superintendent to take the Timber-

lane/Hampstead School Districts in a new direction, while others opted for consistency. The board agreed on a desire to find and select the most highly qualified candidate regardless of whether that came from within or without the district.

Board member Michael Mascola of Atkinson, after a lengthy debate, made the motion to contract with NESDEC for a national search that would encompass regional and in-house aspects as well and not exceed \$30,000. The motion was amended to add the goal of completion by

July 1. The motion and amended motion were unanimously approved.

The district will contact NESDEC and get things under way this week, with the intention of having a NESDEC search consultant at the SAU 55's April 18 board meeting.

The NESDEC Search Consultants will work with a committee, and the SAU board will be represented, but the makeup of that subgroup will wait for direction from the NESDEC consultant team.

The board also discussed creating another subgroup to review and sug-

gest changes to the contract. That decision also will be taken up at the next meeting.

The board also voted unanimously to have the next meeting video taped so it could be re-played to both districts' residents.

After the meeting adjourned, Assistant Superintendent Winfried Feneberg, the likely in-house candidate, had the board opted to go into non-public session at the meeting to consider a candidate, said, "I plan to take some time to think about whether I will be a candidate."

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Budget

continued from page 1

ber that appears to be \$50,241 under last year's spending, but before debt service, it's up by \$202,628.

During a contentious meeting between the two groups to discuss the numbers on Thursday, April 5, selectmen chair Steph Landau said the proposed spending was justifiable and as he saw it, the budget was coming in level funded.

Many of the reductions the committee made to the selectmen's recommendations came by way of the general government buildings budget. The selectmen increased the budget by \$67,977 (38 percent), but when the committee looked it over, it decided that additional projects should be taken out, and asked the board to instead take them to the voters through warrant article.

Even after committee review, the budget shows an 18 percent increase, much of which comes by way of \$30,700 for the engineering

required to fix Edwards Mill Dam, which is required by the state.

While selectmen argue that maintenance and repair of the town's property should be budgeted, the committee's view is that such an increase in spending should be accompanied by warrant articles to make it more transparent to voters.

"We have an obligation to protect the town's infrastructure," said selectman Mike Weider, arguing that the costs in the general government buildings were necessary to keep the town running.

Committee member Chris Hadik said the committee had concerns that as soon as spending went down in a budget, new spending came in to fill the hole, and subsequently became the baseline for the following year.

Another sticking point between the two groups is a 50 percent cut to the employees' salary pool. While the selectmen included funding for 3 percent raises, the committee

included only enough for 1.5 percent increases. The difference in cost totals \$14,883.

The committee members said that number was closer to what was occurring in other towns, but Hadik also noted the committee had to find a way to reign in the budget, and the pool presented that option.

Not much time was taken up on the salary pool during discussions between the two groups, but Landau argued that employees shouldn't be penalized by the effort to cut spending and urged the committee to revisit the number. He said he could work with most of the other cuts, but the salary pool wasn't the place

to find reductions. Landau argued that raises were a way to keep competent employees and not create a revolving employment door.

Budget chair Rhonda Lamphere said the savings the selectmen were hoping to find in the employees' health insurance plan could potentially be moved around to bring the salary pool back up to 3 percent.

Police chief Bill Burke said after the meeting that department heads are required to bring justification and backup for their numbers, but he hadn't seen any from the committee on its decision to halve the pool. Burke added that any successful private company rewards employees for good

work, and the town should do the same or face a revolving door of employees.

"When employees see that (cuts), it's very discouraging," said Burke, before lauding the staff he has now and the fact that he wants to keep them around as long as possible. "It's a small investment for a huge return."

Other reductions to the selectmen's proposal include a level funded highway department and reductions to the contracted finance director line.

While the salary pool did not change, before the public hearing the committee decided to reinstate fuel lines for the three major departments upon selectmen request.

Hadik said that what the committee gave was a bottom line budget, and should the selectmen see a shortfall in a line, they could move funding around. Weider countered that such a prospect was made problematic when a number of lines were cut.

The public hearing Monday attracted just four residents who were not officials or department heads. No questions on the operating budget were presented, and most of the meeting was taken up with committee explanations on why warrant articles were or were not recommended.

Town Meeting is set for Saturday, May 12, at 9 a.m.

Friends Plan Fundraiser for Hampstead Woman's Medical Expenses

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Friends of a Hampstead woman are working to help her with costly medical expenses resulting from an accident that left her paralyzed.


The Friends of Cheryl (Paige) Costin are hosting a Walking Tall for Cheryl fundraiser to help with expenses upon her release from extensive rehabilitation. Costin was injured the week before Christmas last year. She received extensive spinal injuries, leaving her partially paralyzed from the neck down. Her husband

and two young girls are awaiting her return home.

The fundraiser will be an open house from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, at Sayde's Bar and Grill, 136 Cluff Crossing Road, Salem. Raffles, DJ entertainment and food are featured. A gold buyer from a local refinery will be available from 1 to 7 p.m. to pay people for their gold jewelry, with proceeds going to Costin and her family.

Tickets for the event can be purchased for \$10, and donations are welcome. For questions, call Julie at 553-0858 or Maria at 978-804-8780.

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Back from Boot Camp, Former Student Visits Supporters

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – When she was in seventh and eighth grade at Hampstead Middle School, Sarah Delcore was a member of the Military Support Club, and even had a photo of herself and the other club members taken on the day club founder and facilitator Kathe Cussen sent off her 200th package to military friends deployed overseas.

Now, a decade later, Sarah Delcore is U.S.

Marine Corps Pvt. 1st Class Sarah Delcore, just graduated from boot camp at Parris Island in South Carolina.

Delcore returned to Hampstead last week and talked with current club members about boot camp, how she dealt with drill sergeants, and why their shouting was important. She said she had been in an all-female platoon of 53.

She told the students the letters they sent while she was in boot camp had meant a great deal to her and had helped her deal



U.S. Marine Corps Pvt. 1st Class Sarah Delcore is pictured with her sister, Justice Delcore, after Sarah spoke to the Military Support Club. She was a member of that club a decade ago. Photo by Penny Williams

with moments when she considering quitting and going back home. She told the students that the hikes carrying 65-pound packs were the hardest to deal with because it was difficult to find motivation for the exercise.

Delcore graduated from boot camp March 30 and is home briefly on leave. She is also spending some of that time assisting Marine recruiters - then it is off to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina for additional combat training while living

in a tent. She will then attend radio communications schooling at Twentyninepalms, Calif.

"After that it will be the first duty post, and I am really hoping to be sent to Cherry Point, N.C.," she said.

Delcore said she chose the Marines because she had heard so much about the Corps from her grandfather.

Cussen and the club members assured her they would continue to write and send her packages now that she is out of boot camp.

Sandown Selectmen Prepare for Town Hall Renovations

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – The Board of Selectmen approved final specifications for a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will be sent out to contractors for renovations to the upstairs town hall. During Town Meeting last month, voters approved changing the area near the front doors and across from the cable studio from a storage area into a handicap accessible restroom.

It's something long overdue, selectmen said Monday night.

To get the project moving, the board had to decide on some of the basic components, from type of flooring (ceramic) to plumbing, lighting, window shutters and

acoustic tiles for the ceiling.

Selectmen's office manager Lynne Blaisdell drafted the RFP and said the final decision-making went smoothly. From this point Blaisdell will ask the building and plumbing inspector to look over the plan, and then it will be sent out and made available to contractors.

There's no deadline yet set for project completion, except that it needs to be complete by the end of the fiscal year. During deliberative session, many lauded the creation of the bathroom to prevent those unable to take the stairs during such meetings from having to travel out of the building and down Route 121A to use the downstairs facilities.

In other business:

- The board was updated through a letter from public works director Artie Genualdo and custodian Ron Dulong about work planned to install an irrigation system in the town hall lawn.

Resident Scott Hamilton, a water, well and irrigation specialist, has volunteered to do the irrigation project. The town needs only to pay for parts.

The cost to irrigate the town hall and fire station is estimated at \$1,055 and \$425 respectively.

Part of the plan will see an area from the lawn to the fire station dredged out to install piping. The suggestion is to install additional PVC conduit in the event

the town wants to eventually physically connect computers or other equipment. Now computers are wirelessly connected.

- After hearing from resident Robert Millard on

some issues in the neighborhood of Grandview Terrace and Lakeside Drive, the board agreed to have Genualdo and the town's engineer meet with him to investigate reported prob-

lems.

- The board approved Hans Nicolaisen and newcomer Michael Donovan to three-year terms on the recreation commission.

Quick Response Revives Man

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – An 89-year-old resident who suffered cardiac arrest on Saturday, April 7, might not be alive today without the quick response of Chester police, Chester fire and a Good Samaritan.

While traveling down North Pond Road before 9 a.m., reportedly on the way to breakfast, the Chester

resident slumped over in the passenger seat, according to fire chief Rich Antoine. The driver pulled over and began to pull the man out of the vehicle when an off-duty Manchester firefighter, who saw the incident while he was driving by, helped extricate the elderly individual and began CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

Chester police officer Will Sable heard the rescue call over his radio and already nearby, was on scene quickly. Sable took over CPR and utilized the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in his vehi-

cle. Fire chief Rich Antoine arrived on scene soon after to take the lead on the rescue work.

Derry Ambulance transported the man to Parkland Medical Center in Derry. According to Antoine, by the time the patient arrived at Parkland, he again had a heartbeat and was starting to breathe on his own. The next day he was transported to Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, where he remained as of press time.

"We're very proud of our officers," said police chief Bill Burke, clearly pleased with the work that was done to save the man.

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Who Knew Bowling Could Teach So Many Things

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Who knew bowling could be tied to so many educational learning skills and experiences? The Hampstead Central School Unified Arts, Physical Education and the second grade teachers provided that multi-disciplinary learning experience last week.

Second grade students went bowling Tuesday, April 3, at Park Place Lanes in Windham, with their teachers and parent volunteers in tow. The kids and their adult team members took their places at the specified lanes and the fun began.

But this wasn't just a feel-good, have-fun field trip. It was all of that but much more - a carefully choreographed, multi-discipline education exercise that integrated the Unified Arts and the regular education curriculum.

Second grade teacher Kara Gordon listed the educational concepts that bowling activity would be linked to - chain reaction, balls and ramps and comparative ways to get the ball down the lane, all of which led to the larger concept and curriculum unit of force and motion.

Then the youngsters used their writing skills to write about the bowling

experience.

Math played a distinct role, as the teachers used the bowling experience of keeping score and score comparisons to work with subtraction and addition.

The kids also dealt with the concept of strategy, and were exposed to teamwork and the development of methods of positive peer support.

The bowling field trip could have been just a time of fun, where students had a great hour and half involved in a mildly competitive sports activity, but the integration of the experience into the classroom curriculum allowed the experience to enhance learning as well.



Owen Muskrat, a second grade student at Hampstead Central School, steps up to take his turn bowling at Park Place Lanes during a field trip, part of a multi-discipline learning and skills project developed by the Unified Arts and classroom teachers.

Photo by Penny Williams

Registration Open for Hampstead Summer Recreation

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - The 2012 version of the Hampstead Summer Recreation Program is now available online for interested parents. The program is designed for year-round Hampstead residents entering Kindergarten through eighth grade.

This year the program will begin Monday, June 25, and run through Friday, Aug. 3. Summer Recreation hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Child care may be available during the lunch hour at an additional

fee and will be determined at a later date.

A T-shirt design contest is in progress for children eligible for Summer Recreation. The winning design will be the 2012 Summer Recreation T-shirt. The deadline for design submissions is May 18, and the winner receives free registration for the 2012 Summer Recreation Program.

Cost of the six-week program is \$110 for one child with a T-shirt, \$200 for two children and T-shirts, and \$295 for three or more children from the same family plus \$7 per T-shirt. Weekly payments are available at \$25 per week

for one child, \$40 for two children, and \$55 for three or more children. The daily fee is \$15 per child.

An assortment of field trips are planned, each carrying an additional fee. Those going on field trips are required to wear the 2012 T-shirt. Youngsters not going on a field trip will be able to attend the in-town program that day as usual.

Registration for the Summer Recreation Program is required by June 4; after that date, it carries a late fee of \$50 per family.

The Summer Recreation Program will use the Town Beach on hot afternoons, and children can be dropped off and picked up at the beach on beach days, with the program using the Depot Road Playground and facility.

An informational night to provide information on the Summer Recreation Program, Hampstead School District Technology Camps, and Summer Public Library activities is set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, at Hampstead Central School. Information about a variety of

programs available for Hampstead youths will be provided by Recreation Director Angie Ingraham and Hampstead School District Technology Director Lori Collins. Library staff will also attend to answer questions about summer activities.

Among the clubs and activities offered by the Recreation Program are a Running Club (five week program for third through

fifth graders), Hershey Track (Monday, July 2), swimming and tennis lessons, as well as pick-up basketball for middle and high school students. More information on these programs can be found on the Recreation website at www.et-eamz.com/hampsteadrec. For questions, contact Angie Ingraham at 329-4100, ext. 112 or by email at hampsteadrec@aol.com.



PUBLIC HEARING Zoning Board

Notice is hereby given that a meeting and hearing of the Zoning Board of Adjustment will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at the Chester Town Offices. The meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. followed by the public hearings at 7:15 p.m.

Applicants Joanne H. Carrigan and William E. Prescott have submitted an application for a Special Exception regarding Article 5, Sub-section 5.3.3.3 Special Exception Uses, Article 9 Conversion of Existing Dwellings, Sections 9.1 and 9.2 and Article 11, Section 11.4 Conditions for Granting of a Special Exception to permit the addition of one more dwelling unit within an existing large single-family dwelling. The property known as Map/Lot 002-028-003 is located at 96 Town Farm Road in the R-1 Zone. Owner of record is the Joanne Carrigan Revocable Trust.

All abutters and the general public are invited. If you are unable to attend, written concerns and information will be accepted prior to the hearing, please send to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, 84 Chester Street, Chester, NH 03036.



PUBLIC HEARING Planning Board

The Chester Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 25, 2012, at 7:45 P.M. in the Meeting Room at the Municipal Office Building, 84 Chester Street to act on the following:

7:45 P.M.

1. With assistance from So. NH Planning Commission, the Chester Planning Board is amending the Town of Chester Master Plan by updating the Introduction, Vision and Goals, Implementation Schedule and Demographic Trends chapters to match the Town's current development plan and land use policy. Being added to the Master Plan is an Agriculture chapter, an Energy chapter that will provide guidance and a vision for achieving energy efficiency within the Town and an Appendix that consists of the Energy Assessment report, which the Town can use as part of its long-term energy management plan.

These documents can be viewed during regular business hours in the Town Clerk's Office, Board of Selectmen's Office and the Planning Board Office at the Municipal Office Building and the Public Library, 3 Chester Street. Questions and/or comments should be directed to the Planning Board Office.

Brian Sullivan
Chairman

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TRI-TOWN HAPPENINGS

CHESTER

Storytimes

Storytimes at Chester Public Library are Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. They are geared for children ages 3 to 5, and Mr. Tim will read stories and teach crafts. The Library is at 3 Chester St., next to the Post Office. For more information, call 887-3404.

Senior Banquet

The Chester Lions Club invites all Chester seniors to its annual Senior Banquet, set for 5 p.m. April 28 at the Multi-Purpose Room, 84 Chester St., A turkey dinner with all the fixings is planned, along with entertainment by Henderson's "Pick-in" Parlor and presentation of the Man and Woman of the Year awards. The event is free.

Lions Scholarship

The Chester Lions Club will again be presenting a \$1,000 college scholarship to a high school graduate from Chester. Applications may be found in the Guidance Office at Pinkerton Academy. For more information, contact Bruce Baker at 887-4424.

Book Discussion

The Chester Public Library Book Group Discussion meets Tuesday, April 17, at 1 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, 3 Chester St., at the junction of Routes 121 and 102. The April 17 book is "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout. Copies of the book are available for library cardholders to borrow. For more information, call the library at 887-3404.

Dog Licenses

Residents are reminded to register their dogs by April 30 to avoid late fees or a civil forfeiture. Dogs may be registered in person at the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office, electronically or by mail. For an application or e-registration guidelines, visit www.chesternh.org. Send vaccination certificate, spay/neutering certificate, a check for the correct amount and a self-addressed envelope to the office. Cost is \$9 for unaltered males or females, \$6.50 for spayed and neutered dogs. For ages 65 or older,

the first dog is \$2, but the regular fee applies to additional dogs. After April 30, late fees total \$1 per each month of unpaid fees. The law stipulates a \$25 forfeiture to the town, should the fee not be paid within 15 days of being notified of failure to register.

Green Up Day

Saturday, April 21, is Green Up Day in Chester. From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., residents are welcome to go to Town Hall to get free trash bags and gloves for roadside clean-up in their neighborhoods, and dispose of the filled bags at the town dump, which will be open until 2 p.m. For more information, contact Cindy Morrison at 887-8688 or cmmot@comcast.net.

Wason Pond Pounder

The Wason Pond Pounder is Saturday, May 19, at the Wason Pond Conservation Area on Route 102. The fundraiser is a 5K trail run, with obstacles, on the scenic trails at Wason Pond. Start times are every 20 minutes, beginning at 9 a.m., for ages 14 and above, with a Family Wave at noon for ages 8 and above, running with an adult. The Branden Myers Memorial Wave is at 1 p.m., the Fire Department Challenge at 1:40 p.m., and the Police Department Challenge at 2 p.m. Participate as an individual or team and help support the Chester Field of Dreams. Volunteers are also needed. For details, visit www.wasonpondpounder.com or call 867-0132.

Children's Book

Chester College of New England's Department of Writing and Literature announces the release of faculty member Eric Pinder's new book, "If All The Animals Came Inside," with a reading from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, in the Wadleigh Library classroom. The event is free and children of all ages are invited. Pinder is also the author of "Cat in the Clouds." For more information, call Jenn Monroe at 887-7432.

African-American Spiritual

The Chester Historical Society will present a lecture

and concert offering an historical view of the Black American experience through music and lyrics on Sunday, April 29, at 3 p.m. at the Stevens Memorial Hall auditorium, 1 Chester St. African-American spirituals past and present will be performed. The program features vocalists Karol Carroll and Charles Lindsey, with accompanist Kathryn Southworth. A reception will follow the concert. Tickets are \$10 by calling 887-4911 or at the door for \$12.

Legion Work Party

On Saturday, April 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Chester's American Legion Post 108 is holding a work party to continue rehabilitating the Legion Hall on Raymond Road. The focus will be on painting and drywall.

Wild Edibles

Russ Cohen, who has been foraging and teaching about the wild edibles of New England for over 30 years, will present a free, one-hour program May 3 at 7 p.m. at Stevens Memorial Hall, 1 Chester St. The program is paid for by the Rockingham Herb Society.

Supervisors of Checklist

The Supervisors of the Voter Checklist will meet Saturday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to noon at Town Hall, 84 Chester St., to register to vote or change name, address or party. Residents may also register to vote at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours or at the polls on May 8.

HAMPSTEAD

Alternate Trustee

The Hampstead Public Library Board of Trustees is seeking new alternate members. Trustees are the governing board of the library. Their duties include preparing an annual budget, expending funds from the budget and contributions, appointing a librarian, and advocating for the library in the community. They meet the third Wednesday evening of each month, and three times a year with the selectmen for budget discussions. For more information,

contact the library director or attend the Trustees meeting at 6:30 p.m. April 18 at the library.

Boxtop Drive

Hampstead Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) invites the community to join its BoxTops for Education Drive, which provides money to enrich the programs offered to Hampstead Central School and Hampstead Middle School students. Help by clipping boxtops from products and drop them off at collection sites around the community - Hampstead Public Library, Hampstead Central School, and Hampstead Memorial Gym.

Father/Daughter Dance

The Hampstead Mothers Club hosts its third annual Father/Daughter Dance on Saturday, April 14, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Hampstead Middle School. This year's theme is "Hollywood Glamour." Greg from Fizzgig Entertainment will be the DJ. Photos will be available for a \$5 sitting fee. Tickets to this event are \$15 per couple, \$2 per additional child, and can be purchased in advance through a club member or at the door. Email hampsteadfatherdaughterdance@hotmail.com for tickets or additional information.

Community Read

E.B. White's novel "Charlotte's Web" is the focus of the Spring Read, which begins in mid-April and runs through May 5 at the Hampstead Public Library. This year is the 60th anniversary of the book's publication, and the library invites the community - adults and children - to join in reading this American classic. Copies are available for check-out at the library, and free paperback copies can be obtained at business locations around town while supplies last, made possible by a donation from TD Bank. Book discussions take place at 6:30 p.m. April 17 for children and adults, and at 1 p.m. April 19 during the Third Thursday Book Group. Special events include a coloring contest and an essay contest for students. The library is hosting a screening of the animated movie "Charlotte's Web," a talk about the life

and times of E.B. White, and a program about New Hampshire's "Great Sheep Boom" by Steve Taylor of Taylor Farms. The library's grand finale is a Country Fair on Saturday, May 5. Visit www.HampsteadLibrary.org, for more information.

Art Reception

The Hampstead Public Library is exhibiting paintings and color pencil drawings of Mary Ann Manning and Tina Gagnon in the second floor meeting room through April 25. Manning works in acrylic, watercolor, and charcoal. Her subjects include still life, scenes from Wool Day in Canterbury, landscapes, and portraits. Gagnon's colored pencil drawings focus on butterflies, flowers, and animals. A reception for the artists is set for Saturday, April 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Fishing Derby

The annual Hampstead Civic Club Fishing Derby will be held Saturday, April 21, at Shop Pond. Registration is free beginning at 7 a.m. and running through 8 a.m. The Derby starts at 8 a.m. and is open to all boys and girls up to age 15, with prizes for size and number of fish awarded by age category and all entrants receiving a gift bag. Only children age 15 and under are allowed to fish Shop Pond for the week of April school vacation. For more information, contact derby coordinator Sandie Gaudette at ragaudette@comcast.net.

Adult Storytime

The Hampstead Public Library holds Adult Storytime sessions on Friday, April 20, at 10 a.m. The group will read seasonal books and do a craft. The program is designed for developmentally disabled patrons, but all adults are welcome.

Sewing Socialites

The "Sewing Socialites" meet on the second and fourth Fridays of every month at the Hampstead Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m. to work on needlework projects. Refreshments are available. Those who do needlework of any form and at any level of expertise are welcome. No

sign-up is necessary. Meetings are April 13 and 27.

Hampstead Democrats

The Hampstead Town Democrats meet Monday, April 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Hampstead Public Library, 9 Mary E. Clark Drive. Guest speaker will be Joe Plaia, candidate for Rockingham County Attorney. A business meeting will follow.

Rabies Clinic

A rabies clinic sponsored by the Hampstead Firemen's Association will be held on Saturday, April 21, at the Hampstead Fire Station, 17 Little's Lane, from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost for a rabies shot is \$10, and micro-chips are available for \$25. The Hampstead Town Clerk will be licensing dogs at \$7.50 for spayed/neutered dogs and puppies, and \$10 for unaltered dogs. The clinic is open to residents of other towns. For more information, email hq-firerescue@comcast.net.

Supervisors of Checklist

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at Town Hall on Thursday, April 12, between noon and 12:30 p.m. to register new voters and update the checklist. June 5 is the last day to change party affiliation before the September primary. This can also be done at Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

Books for Breakfast

The Hampstead Public Library continues its Books for Breakfast event series Saturdays, April 14 and 28, from 9 to 11 a.m. This program is designed to give families more time together. The library will have crafts, books to share, and breakfast foods. Everyone who attends will be entered in a raffle to win an Amazon.com gift certificate. The program series is made possible by a grant from Target.

Essay Contest

As part of Spring Read, the Hampstead Public Library invites students in grades 4 through 8 to participate in the "Charlotte's Web" Essay Contest. The theme is: "Friendship." Participants should describe their best friend, what makes him/her so special,

and why he/she is a good best friend. There is no minimum length. Maximum length is two pages. Name, grade, school, and phone number must be included on the essay. Submissions must be received by the Hampstead Public Library no later than April 20. Up to three winners will be chosen from each grade. Winners will be announced by May 5.

Special Ed Parents

The Hampstead Special Education Parent Group will meet Tuesday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hampstead Middle School library. The Parent Information Center will present "The Basics - An Overview of the New Hampshire Special

Education Process." RSVP to info@hampsteadsepg.org. For more information, visit www.hampsteadsepg.org.

Victorian Tea

The ninth annual Victorian Tea will be held Saturday, April 28, at 11 a.m. at East Hampstead Union Church, 225 East Main St. (Route 121A), just south of Route 111. The event features music, finger sandwiches, dessert and a selection of teas. Hat and gloves are optional for ladies. Jacket and tie are optional for gentlemen. Tickets for the event are \$10 per adult and \$5 for ages 4 through 1; advance purchase is required. Special items of interest will be on sale, as

well as raffle tickets for prizes. Proceeds benefit the Operating Fund of this historic church. Call Joseph at 887-8916 or e-mail ehuc@comcast.net for tickets.

Friends' Potluck

The Friends of the Hampstead Public Library 50th birthday potluck supper is set for Tuesday, May 8. New Hampshire State Librarian Michael Yorke will attend to congratulate the group on its support to the library. The library Trustees will provide birthday cake. Entertainment will feature Hampstead magician Chad Hess, a home-schooled sixth grader. To attend, sign up at the front desk of the library,

and bring an appetizer, salad, entrée or dessert to be shared. The potluck is free.

Spaghetti Supper

Hampstead Congregational Church is sponsoring a Community Food Drive through the month of April to support local food pantries and soup kitchens. On April 14 between 5 and 7:30 p.m., it hosts a spaghetti supper at the church, 61 Main St. Suggested price of admission for a family is a bag of non-perishable food items that may include toiletries and/ or paper products. Monetary donations will be accepted as well.

Greek Dinner

The Knights of Colum-

bus will prepare and serve a Greek dinner on Saturday, April 14, at 5 p.m. in the St. Anne's Church hall on Emerson Avenue. The menu will include roast lamb, Greek style roasted potatoes, vegetables, salad, dessert, and beverages. Donations requested are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12 years of age.

Garden Club

The Hampstead Garden Club presents Robert Gillmore, a landscape designer and author, at its 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, meeting at the Old Meeting House on Emerson Avenue. Gillmore is the author of "The Woodland Garden" and "Beauty All Around

You." His one-acre woodland garden, Evergreen, in Goffstown has been featured in gardening magazines. The Garden Club is open to anyone interested in gardening or in learning about how to create a garden and invites new members. For questions, call Joanne VanderSande at 382-5177 or email Phyllis.Leochoa@pleocha@gmail.com.

Indoor Yard Sale

An Indoor Church Yard Sale will be held rain or shine on Thursday, April 19; Friday, April 20, and Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at East Hampstead Union Church, 225 East Main St. (Route 121A), just south of Route 111. The

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Happenings

continued from page 17

church is an interdenominational Christian fellowship serving the community since 1897, and proceeds benefit the Operating Fund. For more information, call 378-0683 or email ehuc@comcast.net.

SANDOWN

Dividing Perennials

If your perennials are not performing as you would like, it's probably time to divide them. The Sandown Garden Club would like to help. The club is planning its annual Plant Sale for Saturday, June 2. Club members will visit local homes and divide established perennials to sell at their sale. This will not only help residents' gardens, but proceeds from the plant sale are used by the club for town projects. To have a club member divide your perennials, call Fran Rosenau at 887-5131. The Sandown Garden Club is a member of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. For more information, visit sandowngardenclub.org.

Knitting Group

Beginners to advanced knitters are invited to join the weekly knitting group on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library.

Trail Cleanup

The Sandown Conservation Commission is looking for individuals or groups to assist with trail maintenance in the Fremont Road Town Forest. Clean-up dates are scheduled for Sunday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at the kiosk in the Town Forest parking area off Fremont Road. Clean-up activities include clearing branches and debris and raking trails. Bring gloves, pruning shears, loppers, a leaf blower but no chainsaws. For questions or to sign up for one or both days, contact Samantha Borbone at: info@sandowncc.org

ATV, Dirt Bike Rules

The Sandown Police Department and New Hampshire Fish and Game will host a class on ATV (all ter-

rain vehicle) and dirt bike rules and regulations and state and local laws at 6 p.m. April 12 at the Ed Garvey Recreation Building. The class will give operators an idea of what officers are looking for. Call the department at 887-3887 to register.

Benefit Golf Tourney

A golf tournament to benefit Sandown Babe Ruth baseball will take place at Applehill Golf Course in Kingston on Saturday, May 12, at 8 a.m. Entry fee is \$100. Food and prizes are featured. The tournament is sponsored by Sandown Baseball. All proceeds will benefit Sandown Babe Ruth. For more information, call Kevin Mclean at 303-0686.

Sixty Plus Club

Persons age 60, more or less, who would enjoy meeting new people, socializing, getting together for a monthly meal and enjoying the camaraderie of others are welcome to Sandown's Sixty Plus Club. The group is encouraging potential members from Sandown and the surrounding area to give it a try by attending a potluck luncheon meeting on the first Thursday of any month the group meets. Lunch meetings are held at the Edward C. Garvey Recreation Facility, 25 Pheasant Run Drive. Come to your initial lunch as a guest. Yearly dues are \$10 per person. Contact secretary Mary Kane at 329-5693 for more information or to let her know you'd like to come as a guest.

Lions Scholarship

The Sandown Lions Club will once again be sponsoring a scholarship award. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior residing in the towns of Sandown or Danville who is involved in some form of community service. Applications and further information can be obtained in the guidance office of Timberlane Regional High School or by contacting Scholarship Project Chairman Kathi Soule at 503 Main St., Sandown, NH 03873. Deadline for applications is May 14.

Lions End-O-Tax Supper

The Sandown Lions Club will sponsor the 16th annual "End-O-Tax Season Cele-

bration & Supper" on Saturday, April 14, at Sandown Town Hall. The menu will again feature "Poor Man's Lasagna" (baked spaghetti) or regular lasagna (a variety of conventional lasagnas, with or without meat), a crisp salad, homemade dessert, and beverage. The cost is a donation. The meal is from 5 to 7 p.m., and entertainment and raffles are planned. For more information, call the "End-O-Tax Season Celebration & Supper" Project Chairman Kathi Soule at 974-0547. Takeout by reservation can be arranged with her. A large pan of "Poor-Man's" lasagna, salad, and dessert that feeds six costs \$24. Arrangements must be made prior to April 10 to insure the takeout order is allocated.

Story Hours

Preschoolers are invited on Tuesdays to Busy Bears Story Hours with sessions at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library, taught by Jennifer Dawley, a certified early-childhood instructor who uses stories, music, sign language, poetry, and crafts to teach creative expression, social skills, listening skills, early literacy, and math skills.

Book & Bites

Books & Bites Adult Book Discussion will be held Tuesday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library. This month's book is "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak. Copies of the book are available at the library. Coffee and a snack are served.

Rockin' Readers

The Rockin' Readers Book Club for fourth and fifth graders meets at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at the Sandown Public Library to discuss "King of Shadows" by Susan Cooper. Copies of the book are available at the library, and a snack is served.

Chess Club

The monthly chess club meets Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. with chess master Monty Cole at the Sandown Public Library. All ages are welcome to play, and no experience is needed.

Garden Club

To celebrate Earth Day

and bring awareness to residents, the Sandown Garden Club will be at the Sandown Library on Main Street on Saturday April 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Garden Club members will distribute free seed packets to families that visit. The seeds are for planting a Butterfly Garden. The purpose of the Sandown Garden Club is to share knowledge of gardening with the community, to participate in activities that enhance the beauty of Sandown's public and historic places, to encourage respect for the environment and to demonstrate techniques that conserve natural resources. The Sandown Garden Club is a member of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. For more information visit sandowngardenclub.org.

Spring Break Program

Sandown Parks and Recreation offers a two-day activity program for students in Grades 1-6 on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 24 and 25, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Edward Garvey Recreation Facility, 25 Pheasant Run Drive. Organized games, crafts, bike riding and a field trip are planned. The Spring Break program is open to both residents and non-residents, with a deadline of April 17 at 4 p.m. A \$5 late fee will be applied after that date. Cost is \$55 per resident and \$60 for non-residents. Visit www.sandown.us for program details and registration form. Call Recreation Director Deb Brown at 887-1872 for space availability.

GOP Hosts Lamontagne

The Sandown Republican Committee will host Ovide Lamontagne on Wednesday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at the Sandown Town Hall, 320 Main St. (Route 121A). He will speak on his candidacy for governor and provide his vision for New Hampshire, including economic development planning and tax and education reform. A question and answer session follows. Visit the Sandown Republican Committee online at www.srcnhgop.com for more information or email contactus@srcnhgop.com.

Senior Spring Luncheon

The first dual-hosted senior spring luncheon with the Sandown and Plaistow Recreation Departments teaming up to bring "Celebrate the Magic of Spring" takes place Wednesday, April 18, at 11:30 a.m. at the Ed Garvey Recreation Facility in Sandown. Cost is \$5 per person for a lunch of garden salad, Shepard's Pie, rolls and butter, dessert and coffee or tea. Entertainment is by magician David Anderson, with wait staff from Timberlane Regional Middle School. Create a whimsical spring bonnet and you may win a prize. Pre-registration is required by April 12. Sandown residents should call Sandown Recreation Deb Brown at 887-1872.

REGIONAL

St. Thomas Auction

The St. Thomas Aquinas School annual Silent and Live Auctions will take place Saturday, April 14, in the Aquinas Center, behind St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 26 Crystal Ave., Derry. Hundreds of items will be available for bidding in all price ranges. Auction items and monetary donations are welcome. On Auction Night, doors open at 6 p.m. for viewing of items, along with games, prizes and surprises. The silent auction will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the live auction at 8:15 p.m. MasterCard and Visa will be accepted for payments on winning bids. Tickets for the auction are available from the St. Thomas Aquinas School and parish offices or at the door, and are \$15 per person, which includes a dinner buffet. Parties of 10 can reserve a table. No one under 21 is admitted. For more information, call the school at 432-2712. Money raised from the auction will be used to fund the current needs of students as well as future development projects.

College Fair

Students from high schools across Southern New Hampshire are invited to the Pinkerton Academy Field House on By-pass 28 in Derry from 6 to 8 p.m. April 12 for the Southern New Hampshire Spring College Fair. More than 200 colleges and uni-

versities from across the nation will be represented, along with the U.S. military service academies and the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarship Program. All college-bound students and parents from southern New Hampshire high schools are welcome to attend the free event and speak with college representatives and financial aid specialists. For more information, call the Pinkerton Guidance Office at 437-5200, ext. 1189.

Back Pain Lecture

A free educational presentation, offered by Parkland Medical Center's Community Lecture Series, will focus on non-surgical ways to manage back pain, especially when caused by osteoporosis, from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Nutfield Medical Office Building, Suite 203, 44 Birch St., Derry. Dr. A. Athar Usmani, medical director of Parkland's Interventional Spine and Pain Center, is presenter. A Question & Answer session will follow. Registration is required. To RSVP, visit parklandmedicalcenter.com/calendar or call Consult a Nurse at 1-877-642-2362. Refreshments will be served. For a listing of upcoming lectures, visit parklandmedicalcenter.com/calendar.

Senior Health Fair

A free Senior Health Fair for area seniors age 60 and above takes place Tuesday, April 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at West Running Brook Middle School in Derry. A free lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The fair will offer health screenings and information, a nutritious meal and the chance to connect with resources that could improve their quality of life. All will receive a thermal cooler. Approximately 90 vendors will offer screenings, demonstrations and raffles. The five grand door prizes are \$100 Walmart gift cards. For questions or to arrange transportation, call 432-0877 or visit www.seniorhealthfairnh.com. Wheelchairs will be on site for attendees to use, along with handicap parking and free shuttle van service to and from vehicles.

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